

Office of Space Commercialization

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HEADLINE: New US space vehicle, Navy carrier delayed

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BODY:

The Air Force is delaying the first operational launch of its newest space rocket by 10 months, from July 2003 until May 2004, because the satellites it is scheduled to launch have grown in size and larger vehicles will have to be built to get them into orbit.

The delay and weight growth are adding \$529.4 million to the \$18.3 billion Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle program, the Department of Defense announced Thursday. The Navy is also experiencing delays with its new aircraft carrier development program, the CVNX. Its first operational assessment was planned for February 2002 but won't take place until February 2003.

System development won't begin until February as well, a five-month delay.

The Navy blames the delay on the failure to have an approved requirements document, which sets out the ship's capabilities.

A new long-range satellite guided cruise missile, JASSM, was supposed to be integrated on the F-16 in December 2003 but software improvements to the aircraft have pushed that back by nine months to September 2004.

The Navy is having difficulty integrating the same weapon on its new F/A-18E/F Super Hornet, adding \$43 million to the \$3.1 billion missile development program.

Also delayed is the launch of replenishment satellites for the **Global Positioning** System.

Twenty-one upgraded satellites were supposed to begin launching in May 2003 but technical difficulties are forcing a delay until July 2004. The Pentagon said that there were no resulting cost increases.

The Pentagon is required to report when programs experience a rise of more than 15 percent in costs or a delay of longer than six months.